



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
M E M O R A N D U M

TO: John Hopson, President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent Dsv

FROM: Reginald Santos, Director of Information Technology RS

DATE: February 5, 2025

SUBJECT: **Purchase Over \$50K -**
Cisco Call Manager License Upgrade

Memo No: SB25-123
(Informational Item)

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 3300 Expenditures/Expending Authority: The Superintendent or designee may purchase supplies, materials, and equipment in accordance with the law. The Superintendent or designee shall not authorize any proposed expenditure that exceeds the major budget classification allowance against which the expenditure is the proper charge unless an amount sufficient to cover the purchase is available in the budget for transfer.

BP 3310, Purchasing Procedures: The School Board desires to ensure that maximum value is received for money spent by the district and that records are kept in accordance with the law. The Superintendent or designee may issue and sign purchase orders.

BP 3311, Bids: The district shall purchase equipment, supplies and services on a competitive bidding basis when required by law and whenever it appears to be in the best interest of the district to do so. Prior to any purchase, the District should review the federal funding award or grant to determine if it requires compliance with OMB's procurement procedures.

BP 3312, Contracts: The Superintendent or designee may enter into contracts and memoranda of agreement on behalf of the district. All contracts and memorandums of agreement with a dollar value of \$50,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

BP 3440, Inventories: The Superintendent or designee shall provide for the proper control and conservation of district property.

2020-2025 NSBSD STRATEGIC PLAN

4.0 Financial & Operational Stewardship: Effectively employ our operational and financial resources to support the long-term stability of the district.

Issue Summary

This purchase includes a three-year Cisco Call Manager license upgrade to ensure the continued functionality, security, and reliability of the district's Voice over IP (VoIP) phone system.

Our current Call Manager version 12.5 is outdated and no longer Cisco-supported. This version has reached End-of-Life (EOL) status, meaning it no longer receives security updates or technical support. Upgrading to the latest Version 15 will future-proof our system, enhance reliability, and introduce modern features such as:

- Softphone capability for staff, enabling calls via laptops or mobile devices.
- Ability to migrate critical phone numbers (school main lines, operations, etc.) to the Webex cloud, ensuring uninterrupted communication during fiber cuts or PRI failures.

- Enhanced security with ongoing updates and technical support.

This upgrade will significantly improve operational continuity and emergency response capabilities, making NSBSD’s phone system more resilient to local telecommunication failures.

The three-year license agreement costs \$75,819.50, as detailed in the attached quote from Bridge Data.

Background

The district relies heavily on its Cisco VoIP system for internal and external communication. The existing version has been outdated for several years and is now at the end of its service life. Without this upgrade, the district risks losing critical phone system functionality, exposing itself to security vulnerabilities, and facing service disruptions that could impact school operations, safety, and emergency communication.

By upgrading to Cisco Call Manager Version 15, NSBSD will:

- Ensure continued compatibility with existing handsets and infrastructure.
- Eliminate reliance on outdated technology that can no longer be supported.
- Leverage Webex cloud-based features to maintain phone service during local outages.

Alignment with NSBSD Strategic Plan 4.0 – Financial & Operational Stewardship

This Cisco Call Manager upgrade supports long-term stability by:

1. Maximizing Existing Infrastructure – Upgrading within Cisco avoids costly VoIP hardware and handset replacements.
2. Ensuring Reliable Communication – Keeps school operations, emergency response, and district-wide communication secure and functional.
3. Enhancing Continuity & Emergency Preparedness – Migrating key phone lines to the Webex cloud ensures availability during outages.
4. Financial Sustainability – Prevents higher costs from system failures, security risks, or switching platforms.

This investment optimizes resources, minimizes risks, and ensures uninterrupted communication for NSBSD.

Funding Sources and Contract Amount:

Function	Account Code	Available Budget
Supplies/Materials/Media	100.200.355.450	\$334,449.72

Grant Funds:

No grant funds are associated with funding the attached renewal quotes.

Compliance with BP 3311: Sole Source Procurement Justification

This purchase qualifies as a sole-source procurement for:

1. Maintaining Compatibility: Upgrading within the Cisco ecosystem allows the district to continue using its existing VoIP hardware and handsets. Switching to a different platform would require replacing all phones and backend infrastructure, leading to substantially higher costs.
2. Minimizing Disruptions: A different system would require retraining all staff and administrators, resulting in additional expenses and operational disruptions.

3. Long-Term Cost Savings: Moving to another provider would require a new phone system, incurring significantly higher costs beyond just licensing. This upgrade keeps the district on a modern, supported platform at the lowest long-term cost.